

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 4-6 are amended. No new matter is added by these amendments. Claims 3 and 8 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. In particular, the allowable features of dependent claims 3 and 8 have been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 6 respectively. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-5, 8 and 9.

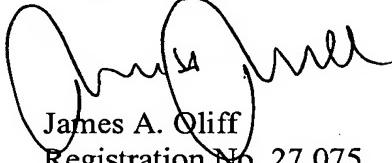
The Office Action objects to claims 3 and 4 for informalities. By this amendment the claims are amended to provide proper antecedent basis. Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0164243 to Arakawa et al. (hereinafter "Arakawa"). The rejection has been rendered moot because the allowable features of dependent claims 3 and 8 have been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 6 respectively.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RHR/mcp

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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